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MINUTES of the Meeting of the Provisional Executive Committee of the Parents' National Educational Union, held in the High School, Graham Street, Penzance, on Saturday, January 18th, 1890.

Present—The Rev. Canon Daniel (in the chair), Mrs. F. H. Anson, Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, Mrs. Hart-Davis, Rev. W. H. Keeling, M. Margesson, Esq., Miss C. M. Mason, E. C. Robins, Esq., and Rev. T. W. Sharpe.

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Robins:—

“That Canon Daniel take the chair at the meeting.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. F. H. Anson, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That the Provisional Executive Committee shall consist of Mrs. F. H. Anson, Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, The Rev. Canon Daniel, Mrs. Hart-Davis, The Rev. W. H. Keeling, M. Margesson, Esq., Miss C. M. Mason, E. C. Robins, Esq., The Rev. T. W. Sharpe, Mrs. F. Steintal, The Hon. E. Thesiger, C.B., with power to add to their number.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. F. H. Anson, seconded by Mr. Robins:—

“That Canon Daniel act as Chairman of the Provisional Executive Committee.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. Hart-Davis, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That Mrs. Boyd Carpenter act as Vice-Chairman.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mrs. Hart-Davis:—

“That James Gordon, Esq., be appointed Provisional Treasurer.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Margesson, seconded by Mr. Robins:—

“That the Bankers of the Union shall be the Bradford Old Bank, Limited, Bradford, and that Subscriptions be made Payable at that Bank, or any of its Branches, or at Lloyd's Bank, Limited, London, 77, Lombard Street, E.C., and 54, St. James Street, S.W.”

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Sharpe:—

“That Miss Mason be appointed Honorary Secretary.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Robins, seconded by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter:—

“That arrangements be made as soon as possible to have a Secretary and General Office.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Keeling:—

“That the Central Principles, to which all Local Branches joining the Society shall pledge themselves, shall be:—1. That a Christian basis of work be maintained. 2. That the series of addresses and other means employed by the Union shall be so arranged as to deal with the four parts of Education, Physical, Mental, Moral, and Religious. 3. That all arrangements concerning Lectures, &c., be made with a view to the convenience of fathers as well as mothers. 4. That the work of the Union be arranged so as to help parents of all classes.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Margesson, seconded by Mrs. Hart-Davis:—

“That the objects of the Society shall be:—1. To assist parents of all classes in the bringing up of their children by: (a) Putting them in possession, through Lectures, Conferences, or the Press, of the best principles and methods of Education in all its departments, and, in particular, of the principles concerned in the formation of habits and character. (b) Affording them opportunities for Co-operation and Consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be made profitable for all. (c) Stimulating their enthusiasm through the sympathy of members acting in co-operation. (d) Advancing Education both as regards ends and means. 2. To secure greater unity and continuity of Education by harmonising home and school training.”—Carried.

CONSTITUTION.

Proposed by Mrs. Hart-Davis, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That the Society shall consist of:—President, Vice-Presidents, Members of a Central Council and Executive Committee, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary, and Local Branches.”

Proposed by Mr. Sharpe, seconded by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter:—

“That the following persons, whose consent has already been given, be elected as Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Members of Council, with power to add to their number:—

Proposed by Mr. Robins, seconded by Mr. Sharpe:—“That with a view to the propagation of the Society, the Executive Committee shall be empowered to add to the number of Vice-Presidents and of Members of the Central Council.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mrs. F. H. Anson:—“That the General Council, of which the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and the Executive Committee shall be members, shall meet once a year to receive and read reports of the work and progress made in the past year, and to advise as to new departures.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mr. Keeling, seconded by Mrs. Hart-Davis:—“That the Executive Committee shall meet quarterly, or more often if summoned on urgent business connected with the Society, and shall make any useful bye-laws.”

Proposed by Mrs. Hart-Davis, seconded by Mr. Robins:—

“That the President and Secretary of each Local Branch shall represent it at the meeting of the Central Council as ex-officio members.”—Carried.

Proposed by Mrs. Hart-Davis, seconded by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter:—“That Branches of the Society shall be free to organise themselves and make their own local bye-laws, a copy of which shall be sent up to the Executive Committee of the Central Council.”

Proposed by Mr. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Robins:—“That Branches shall prepare and send for reading at the meeting of the Central Council a report of work done in the Branch during the year.”

FINANCE.

Proposed by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Robins:—

“That five shillings a year, to cover both heads of a household, shall be the subscription of Members of Branches.”

Proposed by Mr. Sharpe, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That ten shillings a year shall be the subscription of Members of the Central Council.”

Proposed by Mrs. F. H. Anson, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That the annual fee of two guineas be paid by each Local Branch to the general Treasurer of the Society.”

Proposed by Mr. Margesson, seconded by Mr. Keeling:—

“That subscriptions fall due on the 31st of January of each year, and shall be sent in to the Treasurer. In the case of Local Branches, subscriptions may be paid to the Local Treasurer, or at the next meeting following the date when they fall due.”

Proposed by Mr. Robins, seconded by Mrs. Hart-Davis:—

“That subscriptions to the Central Fund of one guinea shall be invited, and that the subscribers be considered Honorary Members.”

Proposed by Mrs. F. H. Anson, seconded by Mrs. Boyd Carpenter:—“That the Secretary shall be empowered to call in subscriptions for 1890 after the meeting of the Central Council.”

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

Proposed by Mr. Robins, seconded by Mr. Margesson:—

“That a meeting of the Central Council shall be called for Friday, February 14th, to ratify the action of the Provisional Committee.”

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At a meeting of the
Hampstead Committee
on July 22nd, it was
proposed by Mrs Herbert -
Smith & seconded by Mr.
Morr, that the following
resolution should be sent
in to the Central
Committee:

over

X
"That the subject of the
food supply of the great
Public Schools is one
which demands the
careful consideration of the
central Committee of the
P. W. E. U., and that with
a view to a thorough
ventilation of the questions
involved the Central
Committee should invite
communications from the
local centres."

Bristol
Cardiff
Birmingham

Date

3.3.
1903

Branches informed. New ones being formed.

In Statement: Cash & Bank £190.15.1

Liabilities - Sec's Salary: 6.13.4

Audit Fee: 8.8.0

Rent: 11.0.0

Council: 30.7.2

Balance in hand: 134.6.7

20.5.03 New & proposed branches. Existing ones. Many successful.
Telephone installed in Office at £6.10.0

8.6.03 The Steinthal writes to say she no longer wishes to be hon. organising secretary

23.9.03 Letters of appreciation from Mrs. N.2
Bulawayo (setting up a branch Miss Hodgson) - it fell through.

28.10.03 Local Branch Secretaries' Meeting - 19 branches repd.

20.1.04 Conf. Cllr organising Conf. in Edinburgh - May.

17.2.04 Ex. Cllr letters read from C.M. - who felt that H.P. had lost somewhat lost its ~~own~~ opportunities and, instead of being a college of parents spreading Educational thought, which had formed the basis of its existence, had become a platform for more or less interesting and diffuse lectures.

It would, she thought, be advantageous if a body of subscribers members could be found who had studied 'Home Education' or 'Parents and Children' or other books now in manuscript. This should in any way clash with the existing arrangements of branches.

Unanimous agreement to idea of a reading course.

1. ^{Parents} ^{Review} ^{Subs} Mrs. Mason writes to say her pamphlet "Some Suggestions" had brought forward so many enquiries from schools that she had determined to adapt her scheme originally intended for

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families, for the use of schools - that it was proposed to form a register of schools with classes working in the P.R.S. Some schools had registered.

- 16.3.04 Ex Cttee - mention of C.M.'s Synopsis of P. Principles + course of reading 'Mother's Ed. Course'
 "Regarding Schools, some classes of which work in the P.R.S. are tested by the P.R.S. Examiners."

- 16.6.04. Branch meetings: proper of men in attendance not many to $\frac{1}{3}$ (not wanted" at Brighton Decision to do more to inform & interest "poorer mothers"

A Conference organised by Mr Wynn Williams M.M.I. was held by the invitation of Miss Mason at the House of Education, Ambleside on Saturday Dec: 9th.

The Conference was summoned to consider the following Agenda with a special view to adopting, if possible, in schools of various classes a method of Education by Books (a Thing) which has for some ~~17~~ 16 years been worked with excellent results in connection with the Parents' Union & known as the Parents' Review School.

Invitations were sent to Heads of Schools & others living near Ambleside with a pamphlet - Suggestions for a Curriculum - setting forth the methods to be discussed; & a copy of the following Agenda.

AGENDA:-

1. An Educative Syllabus - what are the essentials of? How far possible in Elementary Schools?
2. A Curriculum for Schools of all classes for children under 14.
3. English History as the pivot upon which a liberal & Curriculum should turn.
4. The free use of books by children as making such a Curriculum possible.
5. The relief to teachers which should accrue from the use of books.

The Chair was taken by Mr Wynn Williams who expressed the regrets of Mr Gilkes, Dr England, & Miss Cropper who were unable to be present.

The following schools were represented:-

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:- Misses Satterthwaite (Bowness), Sheard (Kendal), Roberts (Ambleside), Stevenson (Appleby), Moss (Longton (Bowness), Aspinall (Windermere), Fuller (Grasmere), Bentley (Ambleside), Joyce (Trentbeck), Lister (Kendal), Cardiner (Kendal Green), Stephenson (Tebay), Stewart (Birkby Stephen), Hook (Brough), Jackson (Sarcop), Anderton (Staveley), Webster (Crosscraze), Simmons () Abraham ()

PREPARATORY SCHOOLS:- Mr Snow (Windermere).

SECONDARY SCHOOLS:- Misses Reynolds (Kendal) Warren (Kendal).

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITY:- Mr Tipper.

The Rev. J. Hawksworth was also present.

~~THE CHAIRMAN~~ ~~CONGRATULATED~~ ~~THE~~ ~~CONFERENCE~~ ~~ON~~ ~~ITS~~ ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ ~~CHARACTER~~ ~~&~~ ~~SAID~~ ~~THAT~~ ~~AS~~ ~~THEY~~ ~~HAD~~ ~~COME~~ ~~TO~~ ~~HEAR~~ ~~THE~~ ~~VIEW~~ ~~OF~~ ~~AN~~ ~~EXPERT~~ ~~ON~~ ~~EDUCATION~~ ~~THEY~~ ~~COULD~~ ~~NOT~~ ~~DO~~ ~~BETTER~~ ~~THAN~~ ~~BEGIN~~ ~~AT~~ ~~ONCE~~ ~~WITH~~ ~~THE~~ ~~FIRST~~ ~~CLAUSE~~ ~~OF~~ ~~THE~~ ~~AGENDA~~.

The Chairman congratulated the Conference on its representative character & said that as they had come to hear the views of an expert on Education they could not do better than begin at once with the first clause of the Agenda.

Miss Mason said it was a great pleasure to her that so many had accepted her invitation to discuss a matter which concerned all who had Education at heart. Education had been placed on a different footing since the publication of Suggestions for the Consideration of Teachers by the Board of Education - a quite epoch making publication. The scheme she was about to suggest was on the lines of that volume but was not a new one: it had been working with success for 16 years. The question now was not who was interested in the new Suggestions, or even, who thought

thought them valuable, but who would definitely take up a method which, we might take the presence of the chairman as indicating, would meet the views of the Board.

The object of Education was to enable for complete living & also to give joy in living. The absence of joy in living & fullness of living is one cause of many evils we have to deplore.

The problems of the unemployed, of drunkenness, of standing at street corners, & worse, would not press so heavily upon us could we make Education open the door to a fuller life.

Now the foundation of a large part of this fuller life was the reading habit, & this habit must be formed in schooldays & in school hours, for it would not be formed afterwards. This habit of studious & connected reading must be got in the History & Literature & other lessons.

The second idea of an Educative Syllabus was Nature-Study together with that foundation of 'common information' which Huxley said should be the preparation for Science.

Art:-children should use brush & charcoal, not pencil, & should also have 'Picture-talks'.

Physical Culture included Hygiene, Physiology, & Physical Exercises.

Moral Culture should be of a kind to give a child some Self-knowledge & some power of Self-direction.

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~~Education Syllabus~~

Handicrafts should be based on a course of Cardboard Slloyd.

The chairman summed up the features of an Educative Syllabus:-a. History & Literature including one or more languages; b. Nature-study Science (including Mathematics); c. Art; d. Handicrafts; e. Physical & Moral Culture:- all this was attempted in Elementary Schools.

Mr Snow was willing to give more time to such subjects as had been discussed but he was obliged to give much time to Latin.

The chairman asked how far such a syllabus could be made applicable to Elementary Schools.

Mr Tipper thought very little Science could be taught in Elementary Schools, some little Chemistry perhaps; the older Botany was purely scientific, the modern teaching was Nature-study + some scientific teaching; pure Science was not essential.

Mr Lister - scientific teaching might be impossible on account of the poverty of the school.

Mr Stewart - Elementary Science might be very useful in common life (a telling example was given).

Mr Bentley - the matter should be discussed from what should be not from what is.

Miss Sheard - Scientific teaching came into many subjects.

The Chairman - a specialised form of Science teaching should not be included in the Curriculum of the ordinary Elementary School; the Technical & Secondary School should take up Science.

Mr Gardiner, with the approval of the chairman, Nature-study should be enough for the ordinary Elementary School.

Mr Chairman - Miss Mason agreed in the advisability of not having

scientific teaching that required much apparatus.

Mr Hook-all the apparatus necessary for Elementary Lessons in Electricity could be provided for ls.

Physical & Moral Culture.

Mr Lister -The Moral Education League issued a Syllabus to all Managers & teachers in Kendal but the paper was laid aside because moral teaching was taken in connection with Bible Lessons.

Miss Sheard agreed with this.

The Chairman-spoke of the futility of abstract moral lessons.

Miss Mason, in agreeing, was glad to hear that Westmorland were not above the Bible-a Book better than an oral lesson-yet it was ~~XXXXXX~~

necessary to help children to understand their own nature & responsibility.

Mr Tipper -did not approve of a Syllabus of moral teaching.

Miss Reynolds-it was well to have a lesson on morals in immediate connection with school life once a week. History & literature

afforded illustrations in morals. Religious instruction was divided into three parts, historical, moral & devotional.

Mr Snow dwelt on the importance of the teacher's example.

Miss Mason agreed with those who condemned preaching but thought ~~XXX~~ that children ought to know something of their own nature to give ~~XXX~~ then the power of self-direction.

Mr Snow-This should be done individually.

The Chairman-What about the applicability of the Syllabus to Elementary Schools.

Miss Mason-all children have the desire for knowledge but it is very often destroyed at school.

Mr Gardiner-How could narration be managed in the examination of Standard 1? Could Standard 7be utilized?

It was agreed that some such Syllabus could be adopted in the ~~XXXX~~ Schools of Westmorland.

The Chairman-Miss Mason's suggestion was that the Curriculum for all schools should be alike to 14, should include History & the

other subjects discussed & that then the difficulties of co-ordination would disappear.

Miss Warren-it was difficult to deal with children from Elementary Schools; they knew no Latin, French or Mathematics.

Miss Reynolds-French was the one language that could not be postponed.

Mr Stewart-A Conference was necessary between Elementary & Secondary teachers.

Miss Mason- Literature & History are the crucial subjects. Should not these afford common ground?

The Chairman-More time should be given to Literature & less to Arithmetic. Mathematics should be treated as one.

Miss Mason -time would be saved by the free use of books; there would be no need for spelling lessons, or Composition Lessons & there would be few corrections.

The Chairman- History the pivot of instruction -in what way?

Miss Mason-children should read the literature of, or illustrating the History period studied; Art also ~~very~~ ^{very} made of use-the children did original illustrations, also Geography in connection with the History period studied.

The Chairman- there was a general prejudice against making History the pivot of instruction-until a few years ago neither History nor Geography were taught in Elementary Schools & many people still thought with Herbert Spencer that History & literature were only employments for leisure hours; the ideal plan was to divide the study hours equally between the scientific & humanistic studies.

Mr Stewart -How could books be obtained?

Miss Mason-Could children in Elementary Schools pay for their own books at the rate of 1d a week in the lower classes & 2d a week in the Upper?

The average cost was ~~2d~~ 21s a year for all books but it might be reduced to 6s a year for Elementary Schools.

Mr Lister agreed, but found great difficulty because Education was becoming so costly-the rate-payers could not ~~very~~ be expected to pay. Some parents would not pay, some would.

Miss Mason-Probably the Educational Authorities would supply text-books & copies of all books for the teachers use.

Mr Bentley-75s perhaps could buy in this way but there might be difficulties in collecting the money.

Mr Fuller - there was no difficulty 30 years ago in getting as much as 14s a term, besides school fees, for books; but it would not be so easy now. If an example were once set, even in one school, others would follow. There was a good library in Cransmore & many children were great readers.

Mr Tipper thought that the Education Authority already spent much on Education but that the personal possession of a book was educative & that it would be a good thing for the parents on many of whom the education Rate fell very lightly, to pay something towards the cost of Education in this way.

Miss Mason -would not parents be willing to pay for the possession of a book when they would not pay for its use?

Mr Stewart -would this affect the Savings Bank?

The Chairman -would the Local Authority take the lead?

Mr Tipper thought that the Local Authority would be willing to meet Schools in the matter

The Chairman asked if anyone were willing to undertake the scheme suggested & Mr Cardiner, Mr Jackson & Mr Stewart agreed to do so. Mr Cardiner considered that teaching on these lines would be a pleasure.